WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable memory device for a USB-supporting data processing system, the memory device comprising:

a USB connector for being connected to a USB port of the data processing system;

an integrated circuit memory for writing/reading data; and

a USB interface coupled between the USB connector and the memory, for interfacing the memory with the data processing system.

2. The memory device of Claim 1, wherein the memory is a nonvolatile semiconductor memory.

3. The memory device of Claim 1, wherein the data processing system comprises a computer, a digital camera, a digital video camera, and an electronic calculator.

4. The memory device of Claim 1, wherein the memory device is worked as a portable memory device of the data processing system.

5. The memory device of Claim 1, wherein the memory device supports a plug and play function, and the USB connector is capable of being connected and separated to/from the USB port of the data processing system while the data processing system is powered on.

6. The memory device of Claim 1, wherein the memory device stores a security information.

7. The memory device of Claim 6, wherein the data processing system stores a security information to verify an authorized user.

8. The memory device of Claim 7, wherein the data processing system starts to work when the security information of the memory device is matched with the security information of the data processing system.

9. The memory device of Claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a hole for holding a key ring.

10. The memory device of Claim 1, wherein the memory device comprises a connector cover for protecting the USB connector from damage.

11. The device of claim 1, said device further comprising a housing for accommodating the memory and the USB interface.

12. A method of expanding memory for a host computer, comprising the steps of:

applying power to said host computer;

inserting a portable memory device into a universal serial bus (USB) port of said host computer;

recognizing said portable memory device by said host computer; and

performing reading and writing operations to said portable memory attached to said host computer.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of performing a power on self test upon applying power to said host computer.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of booting said host computer by an operating system.

15. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of automatically sliding a protective cover backwards upon insertion of said portable memory device into said USB port exposing a USB connector of said portable memory.

16. A method for securing data on a hard disk of a host computer, comprising the steps of:

applying power to said host computer;

determining if a universal serial bus (USB) device is connected to said host computer;

comparing security information in said host computer with security information in said USB

device; and

enabling a hard disk drive of said host computer if said security information in said USB device matches said security information in said host computer.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of performing a power on self test when power is applied to said host computer.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of booting said host computer by an operating system after enabling said hard disk drive.

19. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of displaying an error message if said USB device is not connected to said host computer.

20. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of displaying an error message if said security information in said host computer does not match said security information in said USB device.